

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Initially, Applicants note that none of the rejections in the Office Action, specifically in items 3-5 on pages 2-5, includes any of claims 21-25 of the present application.

Accordingly, each of claims 1 and 2, which are the only independent claims subject to these rejections, has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 24, which is one of the claims not subject to any of the prior art rejections. As a result of this, claims 17 and 19-24 have been cancelled.

Claim 25 is directed to a combination of treatments (1)-(5). Treatment (5) corresponds to claim 24, which has been incorporated into each of claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, claim 25 has been amended to delete treatment (5), and to recite that the hydrotalcite based carrier has been further subject to (1), (2), (3) or (4).

Claims 29, 33 and 34 have been amended to correct a spelling error, in the same way that claims such as claims 30-32 were previously amended.

New claims 50 and 51 have been added to the application, and are directed to a process for preparing the claimed catalyst. New claim 50 is directed to the process for preparing the catalyst of claim 1; and new claim 51 is directed to the process of claim 50, but recites the metal at the beginning of claim 2.

In view of these amendments, each of the rejections set forth by the Examiner has been rendered moot, and the application is therefore considered to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Unni OLSBYE et al.

By:



Michael R. Davis

Registration No. 25,134

Attorney for Applicants

MRD/pth
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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